Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-05 EUR-12 SSM-03 TRSE-00 IO-13 /097 W

R 231410Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8623

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

CINCEUR

USMISSION SINAI

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 13972

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MPOL, EG

SUBJ: CONCERN WITH MORALE IN THE MILITARY

- 1. MINWAR GAMASY COMPLETED THREE DAY VISIT TO TROOPS IN WESTERN DESERT AUG 22 DURING WHICH HE ALSO MET WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS AND TRIBAL LEADERS. GAMASY PLEDGED MILITARY SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC PROJECTS IN AREA INCLUDING 1 MILLION POUNDS FOR MERSA MATRUH-SIWA OASIS ROAD (WHICH OBVIOUSLY ALSO HAS MILITARY IMPLICATIONS).
- 2. SADAT VISITED SAME AREA AUG 7-8 GIVING LENGTHY SPEECHES TO MILITARY LEADERS IN WHICH, INTER ALIA, HE ASSURED THEM THAT ALL EFFORTS BEING EXERTED TO MODERNIZE EGYPTIAN ARMAMENTS.
- 3. PRESIDENT IS SCHEDULED TO SPEND LATTER HALF OF RAMADAN CONFIDENTIAL

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IN ISMAILIA. FROM THERE HE WILL AS IS CUSTOMARY VISIT UNITS FOR MORALE RAISING ACTIVITIES.

4. COMMENT: VISITS HIGHLIGHT GOE CONCERN WITH MORALE OF MILITARY. SPEAKING TO POLCONS AUG 22, MAJGEN MAGDUB, WHO IS ONE OF GAMASY'S SENIOR AIDES, SAID HIS PREVIOUS OPTIMISM ON PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT HAD TURNED TO MILD PESSIMISM BECAUSE OF

(A) BEGIN GOVT'S HARD LINE ON ALL ISSUES AND (B) THE "UNCLEAR" POSITION THAT USG IS ADOPTING IN FACE OF ISRAELI ACTIONS.

MAGDUB SAID IT IS ALMOST TWO YEARS SINCE SINAI II AND EGYPTIAN PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN. HE SAID ARABS COULD SIMPLY NOT ACCEPT PROPOSITION THAT USG COULD NOT BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON ISRAELIS IF IT DETERMINED TO DO SO. WHILE MAGDUB DID NOT REFER TO MORALE WITHIN ARMY, HIS VIEWS ALMOST CERTAINLY REFLECT THINKING OF MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

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